

White Album 2 Drama CD

「祭りの日～舞台の下の物語～」

Matsuri no hi ~ Butai no shita no monogatari ~

The day of the festival ~ The story beneath the stage ~

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Drama CD download: <http://www.mediafire.com/download/1vjpg9yb5zjibw2u/>

Subtitled version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPtumld3vq4>

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Notes:

This is almost a direct sequel to 「祭りの前～ふたりの24時間～」, which can be found here: <http://pastebin.com/SwzkdA19>

Though not absolutely required, it is very recommended to have went the Introductory Chapter of the game TWICE, to have read the above, and to have read the 雪が解け、そして雪が降るまで novel, found here: http://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=White_Album_2_Omake/Story01 , before reading this.

It is also recommended to have completed Chiaki's True End before reading this, though it's not as crucial.

This CD includes various extra scenes during the day of the festival, and includes almost the entirety of I.C.'s cast along with some other characters.

As such having some knowledge of the character's names will help you identify who's who.

Numbering for the Male/Female student speakers do not carry over through the "paragraphs", so they are not the same people despite being numbered the same. Additional translator notes are at the bottom, place(s) requiring notes will be marked with a ^

Festival committee member: Excuse me, it's almost time to close the entrance. You will not be able to enter for a little while.

Male university student: What? What's going on?

Festival committee member: We're sold out already. My apologies.

Male university student: Ah! Wait a second! Just standing's fine, so let us in! We came all the way here from the University just to see this, you know?

Festival committee member: This is Houjou Prep.'s festival, so our students and special guests take priority. We appreciate your cooperation.

Narrator: The day of the festival, the story beneath the stage.

Io: Wow, the place got packed.

Takeya: Got? Was it pretty empty up until now?

Io: Yeah. You know the Wind Instruments Club this morning? That was a tragedy. The audience watching the Drama Club before that pretty much all snuck away.

Takeya: D-Drama club...

Io: Well, our Drama Club is nationally renowned, you know? Apparently the club

president even won the "Best Actress" award this year. Her performance this morning was completely sold out.

Takeya: I-is that so?

Io: And did you know? Her performance today was actually a monologue. Apparently she played the roles of all four sisters. The applause wouldn't stop even long after the curtain fell...

Takeya: ...

Io: What's wrong, Takeya? What's up with all the sweat...?

Takeya: Ah, it's nothing...

Io: Could it be that you and that club president...?!

Takeya: Wait! You're misunderstanding! That girl's just a classmate, I have nothing to do with her! In fact, I don't *ever* want anything to do with her!

Io: There's quite a few issues with what you said just now, but as I thought, there's no way someone like you would be a good match for a national level actress like her, huh?

Takeya: That girl's just crazy. She's on a different plane of existence than you and I. Apparently this stage was especially prepared for her today.

Io: At any rate, we should just be glad that our Light Music Association wasn't scheduled right after that legendary Drama Club.

Festival committee member: After that, stick to the right along the audience seats to reach the changing room. Sorry to make you girls walk through the whole gym.

Setsuna: Well, it's just a regular gymnasium after all, so it can't be helped.

Touma-san! This way!

Kazusa: Hey, don't be so loud!

Setsuna: But we're so close to the stage. If I'm not loud enough, there's no way you can hear, right?

Kazusa: That's not what I was talking about...

Setsuna: Huh?

Male student 1: Yo, Ogiso-senpai's here!

Male student 2: Oh wow, her costume's freaking amazing!

Male student 3: We're actually going to see her live? I'm so pumped!

Setsuna: E-Eh?

Female student 1: Wow! That's incredible, Setsuna! You look so cute!

Female student 2: You're going on stage like that? This really feels like the birth of a new idol, doesn't it?

Festival committee member: You guys! We're in the middle of a performance right now. Stay in your seats and don't move around.

Setsuna: Eh? Huh? What?

Kazusa: That's what I mean. You really need to know just how much you stand out, Ogiso.

Male student 4: Hey, who's that girl beside her?

Male student 5: She looks fantastic too!

Male student 6: With those two standing up on stage, this could be the performance of the century!

Kazusa: Ah...

Setsuna: I could say the exact same thing to you, Touma-san.

Kazusa: You really have the guts to say that after causing all this?

Female student 3: Hey, hey. Let me take a picture, Setsuna. Look this way! Ah, if

we're doing this anyway, how about you two stand together? And try striking some random pose!

Festival committee member: I said, go back to your seats! Also, no photos allowed!

Setsuna: Ah, stop, wait!

Kazusa: We really should have entered separately. Geez, there's nothing but trouble when I'm with you.

Setsuna: Let's leave that for now... What should we do, Touma-san?

Kazusa: Well, if it's already this crazy, there's only one way out.

Setsuna: You mean...?

Kazusa: Ogiso...

Setsuna: Yeah...?

Kazusa: Run!

Setsuna: Eh? Wait, wait for me, Touma-san!

Kazusa: There's no time to wait!

Setsuna: They'll see it if we run!

Kazusa: You'll be completely seen when you get on stage anyway.

Setsuna: Don't say stuff like that!

Takahiro: Wow, there's so many people!

Setsuna's mother: You aren't kidding. Festivals at a private academy sure are a sight to behold.

Takahiro: Holding it on the same day as the university, this really is something else. There's no way public schools can do this. Awesome, Houjou is awesome!

Setsuna's mother: How long will you be able to keep that motivation up, I wonder?

Takahiro: Forget about that, mom. Let's get going! If we don't hurry there won't be any seats left!

Setsuna's mother: Hold on, Takahiro! If you run around like that...

Takahiro: Wah!

Youko: Ah...

Takahiro: Ouch...

Setsuna's mother: ... you'll run into someone.

Takahiro: Say that before I run into them... Sorry about that, are you okay?

Youko: Oh my, there's no need to apologize. I rather welcome the idea of being popular with young guys.

Setsuna's mother: I'm really sorry, my kid's always reckless like this.

Youko: Oh no, it's fine, really. Are you a student here?

Takahiro: Yeah, starting next year.

Setsuna's mother: You already made up your mind, huh?

Youko: Is that so? Do your best, then. I'll be going now.

Setsuna's mother: Sure, take care.

Takahiro: Wow, that lady was so cool!

Setsuna's mother: She really was.

Takahiro: She was about the same age as you, mom, but her appearance and elegance is on a whole different level.

Setsuna's mother: Ah, Takahiro. You ate a whole bunch of stuff during the festival so you probably don't need dinner tonight, right? But speaking of that lady, I can't help but feel I've seen her somewhere before...

Takahiro: You think so, mom? I get that feeling too... Also, I'm really sorry, please forgive me.

Setsuna's mother: Oh yeah, I think she might be Setsuna's friend's mom.

Takahiro: No, I think I saw her on TV or some other place...

Setsuna's mother: No way, why would someone as famous as that be here?

Takahiro: Your guess is probably wrong too, mom. You've never even seen Setsuna's friend's family.

Setsuna's mother: They look kind of similar, so I thought that might be it. Don't underestimate your mother's intuition.

Takahiro: Aren't you underestimating me too? Besides, this is Houjou's festival. There's nothing wrong with famous people being here.

Tomo's friend 1: Ah, finally got to sit down...

Tomo's friend 2: Forget front row seats, we barely managed to grab three seats in a row. It's way too crowded here...

Tomo: ...

Tomo's friend 1: Come on, cheer up already, Tomo.

Tomo's friend 2: Yeah, this time around your loss is pretty much set in stone. It's best to just sit back and enjoy the show.

Tomo: Do you girls understand the unbelievable amount of effort I put forth into preparing for this day?

Tomo's friend 1: Those shady methods you used are the only unbelievable things around here...

Tomo: That's not all I did! I worked my butt off taking dance and music lessons every night you know? I just couldn't find the time to go to band practice, is all.

Tomo's friend 2: You're saying *that* was what your lessons amounted to?

Tomo: It's all for the sake of realising my dream. Miss Houjou Prep., and then Miss Houjou herself. Building experience, entering the TV industry, becoming a host, and finally becoming an actress, athlete, or a business magnate's wife!

Tomo's friend 1: Well, it's good to dream big, right?

Tomo: Ah, that's just route A. In route B I won't debut as a TV host, but rather as an idol. And then becoming an artist, climbing the precarious path of becoming a star and eventually reaching international fame!

Tomo's friend 2: You don't see dreamers like this any more these days, huh?

Tomo: How can someone with no determination nor goals like *her* dare to stand in front of someone as hard-working as myself?

Tomo's friend 1: Too bad you only worked hard for your own self satisfaction...

Tomo: I'll definitely get back at her. I'll make her pay. I'll find that happy-go-lucky girl's weakness and drive her from the top of the world to the depths of hell!

Tomo's friend 2: Sure, sure. Good luck with that. At least that devilish positivity of yours certainly won't lose to anyone.

Chairman: Oh, if it isn't Touma-sensei. You have our warmest welcomes. I am the current chairman of the Houjou University Preparatory School.

Youko: Ah, sorry, I'm here for a private matter today, there's no need for a stiff greeting like that.

Chairman: I-is that so? Excuse me.

Youko: ...Is what I wanted to say, but I haven't been able to find a seat for a while. How troubling...

Chairman: Ah, in that case, allow me to take you to the VIP area.

Youko: Thanks. Having money and power sure is a wonderful thing, is it not?

Chairman: Ah... Haha...

Youko: Now then, how long until my stupid little girl goes on stage, I wonder?

Male student 1: It's starting! Hey, it's really starting! Haha! Hey, what's this song called again? I think I heard it before, or maybe I didn't...?

Female student 3: Ah... This...

Male student 2: Isn't this White Album?

Tomo's friend 1: Wow, it's White Album! What a classic!

Tomo: Ah, uh... Hmph! What is this? Singing something as old as this. She's nothing great after all.

Tomo's friend 2: Isn't she great? This is bad, she's way too good!

Takahiro: What's going on? Why is everyone so excited listening to my sister's singing?

Setsuna's mother: Hey Takahiro. I think I heard this before, what song is it?

Takahiro: Isn't this what she always sings during karaoke? How do you forget something like that?

Female student 1: Hold on, what... She's amazing!

Female student 2: A girl dressed like that playing the sax, she's breaking the rules in more than one way!

Female student 1: Seriously, who is she? I've never seen her before.

Female student 2: Probably someone from the music program. Didn't you hear that rumour? Apparently she's some world famous pianist's daughter.

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Setsuna: Um... Hello everyone! We're the Light Music Association.

Setsuna: Welcome to Houjo Prep's school festival! Is everyone having a good time?

Setsuna: Well, we didn't really think about what to say, so a lot of it will just be improvised, sorry about that. To be honest, seeing this many people here was a huge surprise! If only we knew earlier. We could have came up with a band name or something.

Setsuna: Anyway, let me introduce the song just now for those who don't know. The title is "White Album". It's been... almost 10 years I think. It's Morikawa Yuki's debut single. It's a pretty old song, but it was really popular back then. You'd hear it a lot whenever winter came around. A lot of you probably know this song, right? It's a beautiful song, but also rather relaxed, so I thought it might not have been exciting enough, but that didn't seem to be the case, huh? I'm glad. To be honest, it was a huge decision, whether or not to sing this song. It's an oldie, so if you guys didn't like it, all the excitement would be gone. But, since all three of us like this song -- especially me, I *love* this song, and I wanted to do it no matter what -- so we decided to pick this. Now then, now that the song introduction is over, let me introduce our members. First up is... me I guess. I'm Ogiso Setsuna from class 3-A, I'm the vocalist of our group.

Setsuna: It's the first time ever singing on stage like this, so I was super nervous beforehand. But, listening to everyone's cheers was really reassuring. Thank you very much!

Setsuna: Ah, also, the deadline for voting that certain election is tomorrow, so I'll be counting on everyone!

Tomo: U-unforgivable! How could she bring up the voting at a time like this? I won't forgive you, Ogiso Setsuna!

Tomo's friend 2: I think that was a joke...

Setsuna: Now then, next up, class 3-E's Kitahara Haruki-kun, guitarist.

Setsuna: Kitahara-kun has been part of the festival committee, class president, and all kinds of other stuff. I think he's helped out quite a lot of people. Like always, be it official or private matters, he's always been there supporting us like his old reliable self.

Setsuna: He has a solo part in the next song, so if he messes up, feel free to have a big laugh about it.

Setsuna: And last but not least, class 3-E's Touma Kazusa-san.

Female student 1: Oh yeah! Touma Youko! That girl's Touma Youko's daughter! The piano prodigy that won first place at the national contest in the spring of her first year!

Male student 1: Touma Youko's daughter?!

Female student 2: Number one in the country, huh?

Female student 3: No wonder. With someone like her, of course it'd be a great performance. But wait, did she say class 3-E?

Female student 1: What? She's not in the music program?

Setsuna: Was everyone surprised by Touma-san? I still can't believe we could have someone as talented as her in our group. I don't even remember how many times she helped us out. She's responsible for the keyboard, the saxophone...

Setsuna: ...and the bass!

Male student 1: Are you kidding me?

Male student 2: Hey, she's not just pretending or something is she? Like an air guitar or whatever.

Male student 1: But no matter what, that saxophone was the real deal.

Male student 2: This is probably real too, huh. Yeah, definitely. I thought Ogiso Setsuna would be the only one worth watching, but she's amazing too!

Tomo's friend 1: Tomo?

Tomo's friend 2: You're really into it, huh?

Tomo: Eh, I mean, come on, it's Rina! I can't help myself.

Tomo's friend 1: Is that right?

Tomo's friend 2: Who knows?

Tomo: During karaoke, there's no way I wouldn't do a medley of Rina's songs. This one's the opener, so I just got into the mood all of a sudden.

Tomo's friend 1: SOUND OF DESTINY really moves people, doesn't it?

Tomo's friend 2: Just like right now, huh?

Tomo: ... She's doing this song knowing full well I'm a diehard Rina fan. How devious... I won't forgive you, Ogiso Setsuna!

Tomo's friend 1: No, there's no way she knows that.

Tomo's friend 2: You could probably call this level of narcissism an art.

Setsuna's mother: Hey, Takahiro, does it feel like you heard this somewhere too?

Takahiro: Wow...

Setsuna's mother: Hey, Takahiro...

Takahiro: You're too loud, mom! Shut up!

Setsuna's mother: Come on, everyone else is being so loud too...

Takahiro: Ah... Maybe I should pick up the guitar too...

Setsuna's mother: Sure, if you get a job and pay for it yourself.

Takahiro: Eh... Mission impossible, huh?

Setsuna: The next will be... our final song.

Setsuna: This next one is something I don't think you guys know about yet. Oh, what am I saying? Of course you don't. After all, it was only finished yesterday, this original of ours. We've only practised for a day, so, I'm not sure how good we'll sound... But, I'll still sing it joyously from the bottom of my heart until the very end! Please enjoy, everyone. The title is... Undeliverable love.

Setsuna: Thank you everyone! From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much!

Audience: ncore! Encore! Encore! ...

Festival committee member: There will be no encore. Everyone, please stay in your seats. I repeat, there will be no encore.

Setsuna's mother: Oh my.

Youko: Ah...

Setsuna's mother: It looks like we ran into each other again, madam.

Youko: M-Madam?

Setsuna's mother: That was quite a performance back there, wasn't it? Listening to such loud cheering for that long, my ears were on the verge of exploding!

Youko: Ah, yeah, most people would think that. Oh yeah, where's your son?

Setsuna's mother: Ah, him? Right after his sister left the stage he said he was hungry and ran out.

Youko: Oh my, was your daughter on stage as well?

Setsuna's mother: Does that mean you were also here to see your child's dazzling performance? What a coincidence!

Youko: Well, dazzling or not, that was an enjoyable experience for me as a mother.

Setsuna's mother: Oh, is that so?

Youko: To think that my daughter actually learned to perform as stylishly as that, and even started fighting over guys like that...

Setsuna's mother: How envious, to be able to watch her without worrying. I was worried the whole time whether or not she would make a mistake the entire time.

Youko: Um, did you catch what I said?

Setsuna's mother: Eh? What do you mean?

Youko: Oh, it's nothing. I was just thinking how your daughter is such an honest and outgoing person, unlike my stupid little girl.

Setsuna's mother: Not at all! My daughter is incredibly selfish. She's only like that on the outside.

Youko: If she was raised by a mother like this, she probably would have been happier...

Setsuna's mother: Oh dear, look at the time. Sorry, my kid's out there waiting for me, so...

Youko: Sure, take care.

Setsuna's mother: Good day. Ah, that reminds me, madam...

Youko: Yes?

Setsuna's mother: This may sound a little rude, but, have you been on TV or something before?

Youko: Ah...

Setsuna's mother: My kid was saying that a little while back, and quite honestly I think I've seen you somewhere too...

Youko: Well, in the past, I have. Just a little bit.

Setsuna's mother: Really? What was it again? Actress? Or maybe... doctor? Or perhaps lawyer?

Youko: Oh no, back then I was a prodigy busy with being the pride of the country.

Setsuna's mother: H-Huh?

Youko: Goodbye.

Setsuna's mother: That... certainly **does** seem like a busy job.

Io: Setsuna, as soon as the door opens we sprint. Are you ready?

Setsuna: I'm okay. Touma-san, Haruki-kun, are you guys okay?

Kazusa: I'll slowly make my way out afterwards. Nobody in their right mind would want to run around with a typhoon.

Setsuna: What? No way!

Haruki: I'll go with you. Safely escorting this typhoon of ours out of Japan is my mission right now.

Setsuna: While I'm glad you're coming with me, even you're treating me like a typhoon, huh?

Haruki: Forget about that for now, Setsuna, cover yourself with my suit. It might smell a little sweaty, but it's better than nothing.

Setsuna: Ah, is this my reward for working so hard? I gladly accept!

Haruki: Wait, that's not what your reaction should be. You're supposed to reluctantly accept it.

Kazusa: ...

Io: Stop flirting, you two. It's almost time to go... Ah...

Setsuna: Now then, one, two...

Io: Sorry Setsuna, we're a little behind.

Setsuna: What?!

Male student 1: Hey, she's out!

Female student 1: Setsuna! You were absolutely amazing!

Male student 2: Ogiso, look this way please! Ah, not like that! A little more to the left...

Tomo: Hey! I was the first...

Male student 3: Hey! Don't push! I said don't push, damn it!

Io: That's my line! We're going back to the classroom so get out of our way!

Setsuna: Ah... What **is** all this?

Haruki: We're completely surrounded, huh? I didn't think it'd be **this** bad.

Female student 2: Io! Just one, just one is enough! Could you take a picture with me and Setsuna?

Male student 4: Hey, wait a minute!

Male student 5: That's not fair! I was the first one here!

Haruki: You guys, there's still performances after this! Don't just stand here, go back to your seats!

Io: I think it's too late for that now. Haruki, hide Setsuna behind you.

Haruki: Huh? L-like this? Setsuna, grab my shoulders.
Setsuna: Ah, how nostalgic! Mr. Student's shoulders! ^1
Io: Mr. Student?
Haruki: Don't remind me! I'm not even running yet and I'm already covered in sweat.
Io: I'll listen to your embarrassing explanation later. I'll take the back, you guard the front. We're breaking out of here.
Haruki: You think this is a game or something?
Setsuna: Mr. Student Mr. Student, charge!
Haruki: You mixed up some weird stuff in there, Setsuna.
Female student 3: Wait, wait a second!
Male student 3: I said stop pushing already! I can't go on...
Haruki: Come on, get out of our way! Setsuna, how are you holding up?
Setsuna: Thanks to you getting in everyone's way, I'm just peachy!
Haruki: Haha, I'm actually kind of scared about coming to school from now on.
Setsuna: Haha, it kind of feels like we're stars running away from reporters!
Haruki: How do you even think of something so light-hearted in a situation like this?
Setsuna: "Kitahara-san, Setsuna-san, what's the truth behind the overnight date that was written in 'Weekly Entertainment'?" ^2
Haruki: "We're just friends!"
Setsuna: "Even though we haven't left each other's sides since last night, we're just friends!"
Haruki: "Don't say something so tactless, Setsuna-san. We don't know who might hear us in *such a dangerous situation*!"
Setsuna: It's so loud around here, nobody's going to hear anything!
Haruki: We're not on stage any more so stop being so hyper! Come back to reality already!
Setsuna: Come on, buzzkill, what's wrong with being a little hyper? We pulled an all-nighter last night you know?
Haruki: No we didn't. You and Touma forgot about me and slept for like 30 minutes.
Setsuna: If you keep making fun of me, I just might blurt out something even more tactless, you know?
Haruki: Wait, please don't.
Setsuna: "Um, actually, we've been going out for..."
Haruki: Nobody's listening to you anyway!
Setsuna: Even during "such a dangerous situation"?
Io: At the very least *I* heard everything...
Haruki: Don't remind me! I'm dying from embarrassment over here!
Setsuna: Ahaha! Ahahaha! ... (quietly) I love you...

Kazusa: Ah...
Chikashi: If you're so jealous, you should have just went with them. Yo. Good work back there, Touma.
Kazusa: Hayasaka...
Chikashi: You looked great back there. I didn't think you were so amazingly talented... well, I have heard the rumours.
Kazusa: ...
Chikashi: But you sure surprised me when you suddenly pulled out the sax. Let's not forget the bass, too. You can do everything, huh? You're totally out of our league.
Kazusa: ...

Chikashi: You don't have to glare at me like that. We're classmates, right?

Kazusa: That's not...

Chikashi: I guess they're still on your mind...

Kazusa: No they're not.

Chikashi: You don't need to pretend to be the lone wolf now. You're already a full fledged member of the Light Music Association.

Kazusa: Speaking of, didn't you start out as a lone wolf yourself?

Chikashi: Eh? Did that happen?

Kazusa: In the first term, when you didn't want to be on the sports committee, you threw a giant fuss, didn't you?

Chikashi: You still remember stuff like that from half a year ago?

Kazusa: I thought you'd be on terrible terms with Kitahara, but just a week later you were like a whole different person.

Chikashi: Are you saying I got brainwashed by Haruki? Well, you and me both, I suppose.

Kazusa: ... I'm not like you. I wouldn't be influenced by that idiot and his stupid preaching.

Chikashi: Eh, what's wrong with being influenced?

Kazusa: Everything! Wait, no, I was never influenced in the first place!

Chikashi: There's nothing wrong with a little push in the right direction. That goes for both of us.

Kazusa: Huh?

Chikashi: I'm not gonna lie, you were really amazing today, Touma. A lot of people look at you differently now. It's something to be happy about, for both you and everyone else.

Kazusa: ...

Chikashi: That's the result of Haruki's influence. What's not to like?

Kazusa: What are you talking about? Nothing's changed about me nor my surroundings. Who would look at me differently...

Chikashi: For example, the person right behind you.

Kazusa: Like I said, what are you...

Female student 1 (Yuri): Um, excuse me, Touma-senpai!

Kazusa: Huh?

Yuri: It-it's really her! It's really Touma-senpai, Yako!

Kazusa: Really me?

Female student 2 (Yako): Sorry, she's just really excited. She's admired you for a long time, Touma-senpai, and finally got to meet you in person!

Kazusa: Huh? What? Wait...

Yako: We're from the music program. But we're first years, so we're two years under you.

Kazusa: The music program...

Yuri: Um, I watched your performance during the spring competition 2 years ago, Touma-senpai.

Chikashi: Two years ago, isn't that when you won first place?

Yuri: I was so moved! I played the piano as well, and of course I still play now, so I knew how amazing Touma-senpai was! I wasn't quite sure why, but I knew I had to come to Houjou no matter what!

Kazusa: How can that... That... The piano back then was...

Yuri: I studied really hard, and did my best to get in to the music program, but no matter how hard I looked I couldn't find Touma-senpai.

Kazusa: ...

Yuri: I heard you transferred out of the program, and that you didn't play piano any more, but I didn't know why. I didn't know why you'd quit despite being so good.

Kazusa: T-That's because... I... I...

Chikashi: A lot happened. Don't put all the blame on her.

Kazusa: Hayasaka...

Yako: We're very sorry! It's just that she's worked so hard to find you, so for the past half a year or so, she was always in low spirits.

Yuri: But today, you performed! You didn't give up music after all.

Kazusa: That performance was just a game... I... Um... The piano...

Yuri: Even so! Even if it was just a game, I'm really happy!

Kazusa: ...

Yuri: I'm really, really happy! I've been aiming after you all this time!

Kazusa: ...

Yuri: Sorry! I don't even know what I'm saying any more...

Kazusa: You don't need to... apologize...

Chikashi: Okay, let's change the topic. Finally meeting each other again, this should be a happy occasion!

Yako: T-that's right! We're the Touma-senpai Fan Club's members number 1 and 2!

Chikashi: Yes, yes. How about you take a picture together to commemorate the creation of the club? No problem, right Touma?

Kazusa: Eh? I... I... Um...

Yuri: Touma-senpai...

Kazusa: ... If you're okay with someone like me, then...

Yuri: Thank you very much!

Chikashi: Okay, stand over there, girls. Come on, loosen up, Touma! Smile a little. Put your arm around her shoulder or something.

Kazusa: Eh? Ah, like this?

Yuri: Ah...!

Yako: Isn't it great, Yuri? Senpai, senpai! Me next!

Kazusa: Eh? Ah, sure...

Female student 3: Me next! Me next!

Male student 1: Hey, I think we can take pictures there!

Male student 2: Hold on guys! Get in line properly!

Kazusa: Eh?

Male student 3: Yo, it's that keyboardist!

Male student 4: Where's the back of the line?!

Male student 5: Go in order, you guys! And stop pushing!

Chikashi: 500 yen a picture, guys. Using your own digital camera is not allowed. Pictures with the performers are managed by the festival committee.

Kazusa: H-Hayasaka!

Tomo's friend 1: How's Tomo?

Tomo's friend 2: Not yet.

Tomo's friend 1: She's been like that for 30 minutes! Come on, I still wanted to check some other stuff out!

Tomo's friend 2: Geez, why did she go from one extreme straight to the other...

Female student 1: Hey, Iizuka-kun, have you seen our club president around?

Takeya: Senou? Why would I know where she is?

Female student 1: Aren't you in the same class? Besides, everyone says to go to you when it's a question about girls, so...

Takeya: Not a clue. I'm more of a fan of common folk. I have no interest in serving royalty.

Female student 1: Where did she run off to... She's like a kite with the string cut off.

Takeya: What was that all about...

Io: Good work! Should I help with cleaning up?

Takeya: You were waiting until we finished to show up, weren't you?

Io: Don't complain. I had to finish helping my own class, after all.

Takeya: Taisho style cafe, huh? Setsuna-chan helped you guys out in that outfit? What was it like over there?

Io: The line was backed up to about a 1.5 hour wait time. Business was booming.

Takeya: Damn, I wanted to go too!

Io: Well, I have no Taisho style for you, but I **do** have coffee.

Takeya: Oh, thanks.

Io: It calmed down around here too, huh? Even though it was so lively just a little while ago.

Takeya: This is what they call "After the festival", I guess.

Io: Having said that, wasn't it great? You could call that a huge success, right?

Takeya: Yeah.

Io: The girls in my class said there were even more people than the Drama Club performance this morning. We might be able to drown out the legend with a legend of our own!

Takeya: Sure.

Io: Well, our association is just playing around. The more serious people at the Drama Club might not be too happy about it.

Takeya: ...

Io: Something wrong, Takeya?

Takeya: It was... a huge success, right?

Io: Isn't that what I said just now?

Takeya: Setsuna-chan was practically glowing.

Io: She really can do everything, huh?

Takeya: Touma's appearance and performance were both perfect.

Io: She probably earned a 3-digit increase in fans, you know?

Takeya: Haruki also performed incredibly.

Io: He actually managed to make no mistakes, he really is something else. Well, whether or not he has more fans is another story.

Takeya: What... was I doing?

Io: Ah...

Takeya: Setting up the stage, messing with the synthesizer, and then just sitting back and watching their performance. Was that all?

Io: That's because you...

Takeya: I know. I'll reap what I've sown. I'm the one that messed up the original association after all. Besides, with those members, all I can do is handle backstage.

Io: The main problem here isn't skill, it's your relationships.

Takeya: But you know... I'm so jealous. Not of the Haruki that's surrounded by beautiful girls, but of the Haruki that was just barely choking out chords under the

spotlight.

Io: ...

Takeya: I already knew it in my head. If they were serious about it, I would seriously support them.

Io: Not a bad piece you just wrote there. As expected of the club president.

Takeya: In actuality you don't understand a thing, do you?

Io: Nope, I'm more of a sports person after all.

Takeya: The audience enjoyed it, and I'm happy too, so I'm satisfied. But, being left out from the spotlight like this feels emptier than I thought.

Io: ...

Takeya: That's that. Let's end the topic there. And since it's over, don't go off and tell other people, okay?

Io: ... You know...

Takeya: I said the topic's over.

Io: Why are you so concerned with Haruki? He means a lot more to you than you thought, huh?

Takeya: To me, the words "best friend" carry a great deal of weight.

Io: But the word "girlfriend" would fly off in to space if you so much as blow on it, huh?

Takeya: Well, I won't deny that. Anyway, thanks for the coffee. Let's go home.

Io: ...

Takeya: Come on, Io. If we don't hurry they'll close the gate on us.

Io: Hey, Takeya.

Takeya: Huh?

Io: Don't you want to celebrate a little more? In memory of handling the backstage of a legendary performance?

Takeya: Then, how about some family restaurant on the way home?

Io: Instead of that, since our cafe is about to close anyway, want to go there? We still have drinks and snacks and whatnot.

Takeya: After closing?

Io: Yeah.

Takeya: Just us two?

Io: Well, yeah.

Takeya: Can I get the Taisho style treatment too?

Io: Of course, of course, Mr. Student. Don't get carried away, though!

Kazusa: Ah... Haha... Ah... What am I doing? What did I just do? How could I do something.. like that...

Chiaki: Huh? You...

Kazusa: Who... Who's there?

Chiaki: Eh? Ah, I'm on the festival committee. I'm here to lock up.

Kazusa: Ah, it's already that late, huh?

Chiaki: So, what's wrong, class 3-E's Touma Kazusa-san?

Kazusa: Do you... know me?

Chiaki: Of course I do. You were the star on today's stage. You guys were great, the Light Music Association.

Kazusa: Wasn't the star Ogiso?

Chiaki: No, everyone on stage looked great. The group's coordination was well done too.

Kazusa: I-is that right?

Chiaki: Of course. I've been watching the school festival live performances since my first year, and it's the first time I saw a crowd like that.

Kazusa: ...

Chiaki: So, why did you come back? Not to mention in the same outfit as your performance.

Kazusa: Ah...

Chiaki: Touma-san?

Kazusa: I was in the music room just now. But something happened so I had to leave...

Chiaki: Something...?

Kazusa: Something I couldn't help. Something I couldn't stop... and can't take back...

Chiaki: Huh?

Kazusa: The next thing I knew, I found myself here. Sorry, I'll leave right away.

Chiaki: It's fine, you can stay for a while longer.

Kazusa: But...

Chiaki: "The next thing you knew, you found yourself here", doesn't that mean you were still out of it due to that high-tension performance?

Kazusa: That's not...

Chiaki: Even after getting off the stage, your heart's still in a state of unrest, and you kinda lose your sense of reality, am I right?

Kazusa: That's... true. It felt unreal. You know a lot, huh?

Chiaki: That's because I've met quite a few people like that.

Kazusa: Is that so?

Chiaki: But you know, Touma-san. You really did perform there. Everyone's eyes were glued to the stage. It was a huge success.

Kazusa: Really? Right here...

Chiaki: It was quite a sight to behold!

Kazusa: It wasn't all that amazing.

Chiaki: That's not it at all.

Kazusa: Well you know, my original goal wasn't to perform on some stage in a tiny gym.

Chiaki: Ah, speaking of that, your mother is that Touma Youko, right?

Kazusa: You're a lucky girl. Normally I'd snap just from hearing that name.

Chiaki: Really? Sorry then, I mentioned something I shouldn't have.

Kazusa: No, if I think about it, it's always been my problem. Don't worry about it.

Chiaki: It's fine, don't worry about me, either. So, you were saying?

Kazusa: My original goal was to perform in places like Paris or Vienna, just like my mom. Even though there's thousands of people there, there wouldn't be a single hint of cheering nor shouting. Everyone would just attentively listen to my piano.

Chiaki: ...

Kazusa: And what happened today? Nobody was listening to what I was playing.

Chiaki: That's probably right. They were much more captivated by your appearances than the music.

Kazusa: They didn't understand my arrangement or technique at all. Even if the whole thing was just karaoke, as long as we looked good they'd have the same reaction, wouldn't they?

Chiaki: I sat pretty far back, so thanks to the cheering I couldn't really hear you guys at all.

Kazusa: See? That's why I said it wasn't all that...

Chiaki: But.

Kazusa: Hmm?

Chiaki: It felt great, right? Maybe even better than during your concerts and competitions.

Kazusa: How did you know?

Chiaki: Even from the back, I could see just how happy you were up there.

Kazusa: Yeah, I was. It hurts to say it, but I've never been that happy in my life. Happy enough that I'd sit here and chat with someone I've never met before.

Chiaki: The pleasure's mine.

Kazusa: And it wasn't just me. Ogiso and Kitahara as well, we were all hyped up to the max.

Chiaki: The audience caught on to that, and your excitement spread through the crowd.

Kazusa: Is that what happened?

Chiaki: The audience might not always understand your intentions.

Kazusa: Intentions?

Chiaki: What the people on stage really want them to see. Their technique, sound, underlying messages and whatnot.

Kazusa: ...

Chiaki: They can't see that stuff at all. What they **can** see clearly, however, are the emotions of the performers.

Kazusa: I don't really understand stuff like that.

Chiaki: Then perhaps, maybe it's you who's never understood the audience until now.

Kazusa: Ah...

Chiaki: What's wrong?

Kazusa: Is... is that right? That's why mom... did that to me...

Chiaki: Touma-san?

Kazusa: You might be right. There's no way someone who's never thought about what the audience wants can improve.

Chiaki: This time I'm the one who doesn't quite understand.

Kazusa: No, it's okay. Forget about it.

Chiaki: Well, let's leave it there. You were amazing today. That much is indisputable.

Kazusa: Was I?

Chiaki: You'll know by tomorrow. Your surroundings will go through some incredible changes. There might even be faction wars between the Touma and Ogiso supporters.

Kazusa: Haha, what's that all about?

Chiaki: When that happens, which side will the one person you all long for join, I wonder?

Kazusa: Eh?

Chiaki: Well, I'm taking off. I'll be back in 30 minutes to lock up. Until then, take your time.

Kazusa: H-Hey! What did you mean by... what you just said?

Kazusa: Is that right...?

Kazusa: I was amazing.

Kazusa: Today, I...

Kazusa: I was the star...

Kazusa: Are you pretending to be alone...?

Kazusa: It wasn't pretending... How could it have been just pretending? How can someone stand all those insufferable emotions and pretend like nothing's wrong? Hey, will it really change? Will it... really change towards the direction, and the ending I want it to be? Will it or not? Kitahara...

Fin.

Translation notes:

^1 : In case you don't know what she meant by that, refer to the scene on the train after Haruki took Setsuna out of the Taisho style cafe and headed towards Kazusa's place to practice. For reasons I'm not sure of, the waitresses in the Taisho style cafe address their customers as 学生さん(gakusei-san), literally "student-san", though that makes little to no sense in English so I borrowed how UTW handled it.

^2 : This, as well as the next few lines that are in quotes, are them pretending to be interviewed by the press, in case that wasn't too clear.